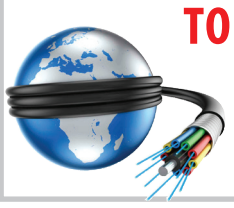

TOP 10 TECH SCHOOLS

On **page 5**, one of our writers weighs in on Hamilton's ranking as a "top tech" school.

BYE BYE, WINTER BLUES

Find a list of fun activities to warm up a chilly winter atop the Hill on **page 8**.

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

Check out reviews of the movies you missed over winter break on **page 11**.

THE SPECTATOR

Thursday, Jan. 23 2014

Volume LIV Number 13

Housing changes limit available singles

by Max Schnidman '14
News Contributor

During Fall semseter 2012, the Committee on the First-Year Experience released its report along with its recommendations for the program's future. Among these recommendations were introducing first-year courses and restructuring housing with the purpose of placing first-years into specific residence halls.

The initial plan was to implement mandatory first-year courses in the Fall 2014 semester and to cluster the first-year students into Wertimer, half of Carnegie, half of South, most of Dunham, Root and Keehn. This plan has undergone revision, however. While courses designed for first-years will be implemented in the upcoming Fall 2014 semester, they will not be mandatory. Additionally, student protests concerning residence halls previously chosen as first-year housing led to changes. A key reason for the student protests was to save Carnegie as a residence hall for upperclassmen. As a result of the vocalized dissatisfaction, Wertimer, Wallace Johnson, North, Keehn, Major, most of Dunham and half of South will now become first-year dorms.

The present plan also designates that the bottom half of South will be reserved for students going abroad in the spring so that it can ultimately serve as housing for January admits.

These housing changes will have repercussions for the rest of student housing. In order for the first-year clustering to work, the singles in the residence halls designated as first-year housing must be converted into doubles. While this frees up rooms in Root, Minor, Macintosh and part of Dunham, those doubles will not be converted into singles. As a result, fewer singles will be available to students.

Director of Residential Life Travis Hill explained, "When selecting buildings for first-year housing we intentionally tried to protect the largest number of singles possible, which will also minimize the necessity of residence hall renovations. While we initially proposed using Carnegie for first-year housing, students expressed their desire to maintain the quads for upperclass students. We made the alternative decision to renovate North as a first-year residence hall even though it meant reducing the number of singles."

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The singles marked in the floor plan above will be converted to doubles for Fall 2014.

How big of an impact will this have on student housing? Currently, including RA singles, about 650 singles are available to students. This includes the singles in the suites and the Griffin Road apartments, as well as any pulls that include singles. With the elimination of singles from North, Dunham, Keehn and Major, the total number drops to about 550—a 16 percent decrease in the number of singles available to students. Under the original plan, a smaller number of singles—about 10 percent—would have been converted into doubles.

The impact of this loss will vary by housing lottery. Neither the sub-free lottery nor the block lottery are expected to lose singles (unless sub-free dorms change), but additional doubles in Root will be available in the sub-free lottery. Since sub-free rooms have appeared in the general lottery in previous years, suggesting a lack of demand, it is possible that more sub-free rooms will not be taken during the sub-free lottery.

The largest impact of these changes will come in the general lottery, which will have about 26 percent fewer singles available than in the previous lottery (specifically, about 280 singles compared to about 380 singles). Almost half of these remaining singles are in Bundy East or West. Under the original plan, the general lottery would have had about 15 percent fewer available singles.

Given the extraordinary demand for singles in any given year, it is difficult to comprehend how students in the housing lottery will react. While most rising seniors will likely be able to get singles in the block lottery or the general lottery, rising seniors with poor numbers and rising juniors may be faced with the choice of a single in Bundy or a double closer to campus.

Hill commented, "It is very difficult to predict what will happen in the lottery this year. We plan to communicate clearly with students well in advance so there are no surprises…I strongly encourage everyone to come to the Lottery information sessions that we will offer. Students should keep an eye out for emails with specifics on dates and locations. But if I had to guess, I believe that the Blocking Lottery will be even more popular than in previous years."

Future developments may ameliorate this problem. In the 2014-2015 academic year, Minor Theater will be converted into a dorm. Initial floor plans suggest that it will contain both singles and doubles in its apartments, which will add about 18 more singles to the pool.

Hill confirmed, "Minor Theater will come on-line as a residence hall in Fall 2015 which will provide an appealing, apartment-style housing option for upperclass students."

Additionally, the potential reclamation of the Clinton Early Learning Center space in Root allows for additional housing, albeit in sub-free spaces.

The implemented recommendations of the Committee will no doubt have a visible impact upon the very structure of the College campus. However, the ongoing efforts to create enjoyable living experiences for the entire student body will ultimately maintain a positive perspective of housing at Hamilton.

President Stewart goes to Washington

by Ben Fields '15
News Editor

On Thursday, Jan. 16 President Joan Hinde Stewart travelled to Washington, D.C. to attend a summit on college opportunities hosted by President and Mrs. Obama. Over 100 different university and college leaders including other NESCAC presidents attended the summit. The primary focus was to increase opportunities for students from low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds.

"The summit brought together government officials and representatives of a wide range of institutions of higher education—research universities, community colleges, liberal arts colleges, ivies, public college systems, etc.—to discuss a matter of importance to our nation: college opportunity for students from low-income families," President Stewart remarked.

As a part of the summit, President Obama introduced four broad calls to action. First, a dedication to increasing connections for low-income students to schools that are right for them and ensuring that these students complete their degrees. Second, increasing the pool of students preparing for college through early interventions. Third, leveling the playing field in college advising and test preparation. And, finally, seeking breakthroughs in remedial education.

Hamilton has worked hard recently to increase its financial aid budget, and in the last 10 years, the budget has grown by 85 percent. Along with this increase, the College went need-blind in 2010 and reallocated all merit aid to need-based aid. However, the school has recently dedicated new resources to meeting the hidden needs of disadvantaged students once they are on the Hill.

The school has recently introduced two programs designed to meet these needs: First-Year Forward and the Student Emergency Aid Society (SEAS). These two were announced at the summit in conjunction with the President's call to action. These two programs have had a great deal of success in the short time since they have been implemented, but the school is working to increase the results. "We always know that we can do more and that is why we will seek to endow the First-Year Forward program and make sure we have the resources to sustain the SEAS initiative," said President Stewart.

First-Year Forward is a career-center run program for 30-35 first-year students, often first-generation college students. The program is designed for students who demonstrate exceptional potential and financial need. These students participate in various activities designed to help them assess their strengths and interests, enhance their communication skills, develop a resume and explore career paths. Students receive a stipend to pursue a career-related experience the summer after their first year. As a part of its participation in the White House Summit, Hamilton has committed to raising $1.5 million to endow the program.

"Ensuring that we have the resources to admit the most qualified students to Hamilton and meet their financial need for all four years is our top priority. But we also care that all students have an equal experience at Hamilton," said Monica Inzer, Vice President and Dean of Admission and Financial Aid. With both the First-Year Forward program, and SEAS, which is a designated fund for low-income students to use in case of an emergency, Hamilton is working to level the playing field once students are at Hamilton. Additionally, Hamilton is collaborating with governmental agencies to enroll more students from low-income backgrounds.

The recent summit brought together a wide variety of higher education officials to discuss these issues, but more than that, it was a call to action from the White House. President Obama opened his remarks by saying, "we are here for one purpose: We want to make sure more young people have the chance to earn a higher education." Hamilton has used its need-blind status as well as outreach to enroll more students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Ultimately the summit was just the beginning of the discussion.

"The conveners emphasized that last week's meeting was the launch, not the destination, of this initiative," said President Stewart.

HAMILTON.EDU

Model EU takes on socioeconomic policy

by Hristina Mangelova '16
Features Editor

From Jan. 4-7, Hamilton College's Model European Union Club, led by Visiting Professor of Government Calin Trenkov-Wermuth, attended the EuroSim 2014 conference in Enschede, the Netherlands. The theme of this year's conference was "Economic and Social Policy - Minimum Income Directive."

Hamilton's team consisted of eleven students: seniors Neil Edwards, Keara Fenzel, Alice Henry, Daniel O'Kelly and Scott Hancox; junior Jack Boyle; sophomores Dima Kaigorodov, Hristina Mangelova, Neijla Asimovic and Justin Long; and first-year Alex Hollister. Each person was assigned an alter-ego from either the European Parliament, the European Council or the Council of the European Union.

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Hamilton's Model EU team debated international policy with students from around the world.

The conference took place at the University of Twente, where for four days the students not only immersed themselves in European politics, representing their countries and/or individual personas, but also met many people from all over Europe and the U.S. This year's conference was attended by 15 institutions, including Colgate University, Widener University, University of Twente, Maastricht University, University of Antwerp, Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg and University of Dundee.

An interesting part of the conference's program was that each day, a distinguished member of the European academic and political community acted as guest speaker. The first day, Frank Vandenbroucke, a former member of the Belgian Senate and the Flemish Parliament, gave the conference's firstlecture on the development of welfare policies within the European Union.

The lecturers that followed were delivered by Professor of Sociology of Governance at University of Twente Ringo Ossewaarde, Deputy Secretary-General at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ronald van Roeden and former Member of the European Parliament's Committees on Employment and Social Affairs Anne Van Lancker.

Hamilton's team performed superbly at EuroSim 2014 and was the only American institution that received awards for best performance. Hancox and Boyle, both members of the European Parliament during the simulation, received individual awards for outstanding performance while competing against European students completing their Master's degrees.

The entire Model European Union team was very excited to have gone on the trip to the Netherlands. Asimovic said, "Through EUROSim, I gained better understanding of complex decision-making processes and governance in the European Union...and truly realized how powerful a group of individuals working together toward a common goal can be."

The team is looking forward to next year's conference about cyber security, which will be hosted by Skidmore College.

Smallen Grants help students pursue artistic visions

by Shannon O'Brien '15
News Contributer

Ten students have been awarded Smallen Creativity Grants to help them pursue their complex, imaginative and sophisticated artistic visions. The grant was started by Vice President for Libraries and Information Technology David Smallen and his wife, Ann, in memory of their son, Steven, who studied at Hamilton for a year while being treated for leukemia.

Michael Burchesky '17 brainstormed his creative project before even arriving at Hamilton. As a prospective student, he was impressed by the beauty of the stained-glass doors of the Christian-Johnson building, but underwhelmed by the fairly plain building atrium. After receiving an email about the Smallen Grant, he "knew it was the perfect opportunity to make something happen." His idea to create a harmonograph machine out of three pendulums came together during Thanksgiving break, when he and his cousin spent seven hours building the complex drawing machine. The harmonograph is "a unique machine that combines art and science," making it an ideal project for the Smallen Grant. He hopes that his project will encourage Hamilton students to experiment with different mediums of art.

Sam Wagner '14 plans to use his grant to present craft beer in a way that fuses creative writing with art. "Much of my life has been spent in pursuit of new beers," Wagner explained. "I am infatuated with the craft and impressed by the range of beer styles that brewers are creating." Drawing from his view that the "variety of names, labels, styles and flavors [of] craft beer brewing has become a true art form," Wagner plans to create a chapbook of poetry that exposes the artistic complexities of beer-making. With the help of the Smallen grant, he will be able to further his knowledge of craft beer by touring breweries and sampling extraordinary beers. Once his collection of beer-themed poetry is published, he hopes to introduce it at a reception and reading in a pub.

HAMILTON.EDU

Smallen Grants allow students to independently design creative projects, like this piece by Deanna Perez '14.

Students like Deanna Perez '14 are using the grant to fulfill senior thesis projects. The grant allows students to pursue extensive projects in their academic fields. Perez says, "The Smallen Grant is really a wonderful thing for creative, passionate minds."

The grant is certainly the creative jump-start that many students have been looking for. Zoe Bodzas '16 will use the grant to publish a zine, which she describes as an examination of the "mannerisms, ways of speaking [and] conscious performances" of other people. She explains that she has "been captivated by the idea of zines, or small DIY independent/personal publications for a long time." Through the grant, Bodzas will be able to meet other artists, look at more zines and finally create one of her own.

Sam Finkelstein '14 will also create a zine, but he envisions a virtual publication that will "take advantage of the unique concentration of creative minds that occupy our liberal arts campus" by providing a forum for people to present their art and respond to others' submissions. As Finkelstein explains, "An online platform would allow for a guitarist to create an auditory response to a poem, or for a philosophy student to write an essay in response to a recorded dance performance." The Smallen Grant allows Finkelstein to commission a website designer to help him reify his virtual vision. Moreover, the grant gives him the opportunity to experiment in new mediums and flex his creative potential. "As the publication is the first of its kind," he says, "I am excited to see where an online collaborative arts platform can take us."

Articulating the importance of the arts to o Hamilton and himself, Finkelstein says, "The grant is allowing me to put a dream to reality." Congratulations to the following Smallen Creativity grant winners: Zoe Bodzas '16, Michael Burchesky '17, Samuel Finkelstein '14, Nicholas Geisler '14, Deanna Perez '14, Alison Ritacco'14, William Sinton '15, Sean Henry-Smith '15, Mackenzie Theobald '14 and Sam Wagner '14.

Better know your rep!

Have a bone to pick on campus but don't know who to talk to? Once every month, The Spectator *will profile a different Student Assembly Class Representative, so you can know who to reach when there's a change you want to see on the Hill.*

Name: Lia Parker-Belfer

Class Year: 2016

Hometown: Brookline, Massachusetts ("right outside of Boston")

Majors: Government and Chinese

On-Campus Activities: SA President, J-board Student Representative, Tour Guide, Burke Library Circulation Student Assistant, sister of ATX

Favorite place to work on campus: Either the library or my room.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Favorite hot beverage: Vanilla Latte, Chai Tea Latte, or Hot Chocolate.

One thing on your bucket list: Go sky diving.

Right now I'm working on: Selecting my new SA executive board and creating a tentative SA agenda for the semester.

Name: Ryan Ong

Class Year: 2016

Hometown: Diamond Bar, California

Major: Mathematics and Economics

On-Campus Activities: SA Vice-President, New Student Orientation Leader, Days-Massolo Center Ambassador, Hamilton College Choir, Publicity Chair of Rainbow Alliance, Chair of Elections Committee, Hamilton Consulting

Favorite place to work on campus: I have three—Levitt Center, Opus 1 and Science Center (I love using chalkboards).

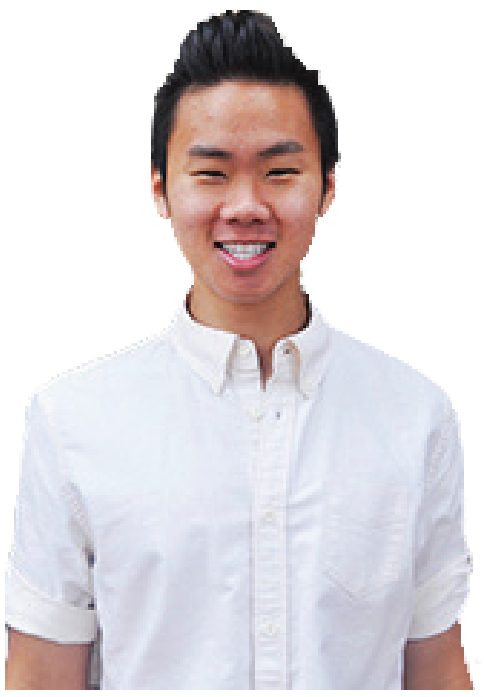

PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Favorite hot beverage: Japanese Tea Latte from Urth Caffe in Los Angeles. It's absolutely delicious. You have to try it!

One thing on your bucket list: Travel the world!

Right now I'm working on: The SA election to fill the Class of 2015 Representative positions and preparing for my term as VP.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Brian Sobotko '16
News Writer

Williams receives funding for women's studies in science

Williams College has been awarded $246,440 in a grant from the Clare Boothe Luce Program to support women in the physical sciences and mathematics. The grant will establish a Clare Boothe Luce research scholars program at Williams to encourage more student majors in astrophysics, computer science, geoscience, mathematics, statistics and physics.

The program will establish fellowships for three cohorts of eight women. The students would conduct research during the summers after their sophomore and junior years, then complete an honors thesis their senior year.

The program is designed to build a bond among the cohort and also heighten the scholars' connections with women in the fields in an attempt to develop a network at Williams and beyond.

"Research and education enjoy an intimate connection at Williams," says President Adam Falk. "Our science faculty subscribe to the belief that students learn science best by doing it. We hope this program can be a path to encourage more women into active engagement with these majors."

$200,000 grant supports Muslim Women Voices Project at Wesleyan

The Wesleyan Center for the Arts (CFA) has received a grant of $200,000 to support the campus's Muslim Women Voices Project during the 2014-15 season. The project is part of the Creative Campus initiative and presents theater, music and dance performances by women from nine different countries.

The Wesleyan CFA is one of six organizations chosen this year to receive a grant distributed by the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, a national service group.

"An essential part of Wesleyan's mission as a residential undergraduate institution is 'to build a diverse, energetic community of students, faculty and staff who think critically and creatively and who value independence of mind and generosity of spirit,'" said CFA Director Pamela Tatge. "This project will feature extraordinary artists from around the globe and will assist us in building a more inclusive and dynamic campus community while at the same time catalyzing important dialogues within our region."

The performances will be supplemented by events including workshops, lectures and informal talks with artists, as well as two new courses.

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Saving Carnegie sacrifices singles

Before students first arrive at Hamilton, they are given the option of living in a double, triple or quad; no freshman can avoid socialization by requesting a single. This forced cohabitation ensures that students learn to live with others in close quarters and that first-years have a ready-made base of potential friends.

While everyone goes through this initial phase--some enjoying the experience more than others--by the time students reach senior or even junior year, many desire to live in a single room. Singles appear in a variety of locations--dark-side suites, Griffin Road apartments and light-side dormitories, to name a few--and the privacy and flexibility of a single appeal to a large number of upperclassmen. For example, seniors and juniors often populate the four singles of a Babbitt or Milbank suite and, in turn, find younger students to fill the double. Sleeping in a single is inextricably linked to seniority privilege on Hamilton's campus.

Yet, while demand for singles is strong on the Hill, the supply of singles is about to shrink (see this week's cover story). According to Max Schnidman '14, 100 fewer singles will be available for next year's housing lottery (550, down from 650). Of these 550 spaces, 270 singles are in substance-free areas and 140 singles are in Bundy, leaving 140 singles across the dark side suites, Griffin Road, 4002, 3994, Root Farmhouse, Eels, Ferguson and the dark side dorms not converted to first-year-only housing. In fall 2015, 18 more singles will open up in the new Minor Theater dormitory. Of course, singles not taken in the substance-free lottery will remain available for the general lottery.

How did we get to this situation of 100 fewer singles? While the well-intentioned new first-year housing plan, with its emphasis on placing all incoming freshmen into the same building and converting singles into doubles, played a large role in this change, another important cause was the student protests last year to keep Carnegie as an upperclassman-only dormitory. Because of the decision to keep Carnegie freshman-free, Residential Life has decided to convert the 40 former singles in Wallace-Johnson, North and Major turned into first-year housing.

The consequences of this change will remain unclear until the dust settles after this year's Housing Lottery. Most likely, the already-intense competition for the suites in the blocking lottery will approach a Hunger Games-esque contest. In addition, students who desire singles will have to live in substance-free housing, even if they do not want to, and the sophomore fiefdom of Bundy might see an influx of disgruntled older students.

Are these housing changes good or bad? If you prioritize living in a single above all else, like many upperclassmen, there is little to cheer. For the seniors who still enjoy sharing a bedroom, however, keeping the quads available in Carnegie was worth the cost of lost singles. Whether the incoming first-years benefit from the new housing plan more than the upperclassmen lose remains to be seen. More than anything, these unintended consequences of the housing plan and the subsequent Carnegie protests illustrate the timeless lesson that there is "no such thing as a free lunch."

The Spectator **editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.**

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Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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The Hamilton College Spectator*, publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. Subscriptions are $60 per year. For more information about subscriptions e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Unigo names Hamilton fourth 'most wired' college

By Katharine Fuzesi '17
Opinion Contributor

Would you consider Hamilton wired? No, not stressed and tense, but technologically wired. Recently Unigo, a website featuring reviews and rankings of the country's top colleges, named Hamilton the fourth "most wired" college in the country. There are two sides to this recognition: Hamilton's success with technology as an aid to education and Hamilton's success with education about technology. There's no doubt that Hamilton does well in both categories, but are we really fourth best in the U.S.? Let's look at the facts.

There are many technological elements in place helping Hamilton students learn and grow. Hamiltonians are no strangers to omnipresent Wi-Fi, web printing, nonstop mass emails, Doodle polls and Survey Monkey. Additionally, according to Unigo, we have a high 2:1 student-to-computer ratio, which includes both Macs and PCs. What's more, Hamilton students are expected to be well-informed about the technological resources on campus. Before new student orientation this year, the first years were required to complete a comprehensive ITS test going over important information and resources available to students at Hamilton (and trust me it was not easy).

Administrators are also making good use of the technology available on campus. Technology does not overshadow learning, but truly serves to aid it. For example, I was impressed with the use of interactive polling used in presentations during orientation. By using our cellphones, we were able to submit answers to questions and see the distribution of answers on graphs in real time.The application allowed me and my classmates to have a better understanding of the different beliefs and cultures in our class. This live polling demonstrates how our administrators handle advanced technology with grace and skill.

Another example of supportive but non-dominating technologies are our advanced, integrated classrooms. This is one aspect of Hamilton that exceeded my expectations when I first came to the Hill. For example, my Psychology 101 classroom has stadium seated desks with outlets at every seat. The room is very modern and clean with hues and lighting designed for an optimal learning environment. At the front of the class there is an old-fashioned sliding chalkboard in addition to a projector option. The first time my professor brought down the screen to use the projector, she was met with *oohs* and *aahs* from me and my classmates as we watched the room automatically transform. Certain lights dimmed up or down and window screens magically slid down to prevent glare. Even in a world of Wi-Fi, iPads, iPhones and Bluetooth, I think my classmates and I agreed: It was pretty cool.

The other aspect of Hamilton's fourth most wired honor is our cutting-edge technology education. Hamilton has a wonderfully community oriented

NEOCLIPART.COM

Computer Science department. Though such a program may appear to have a disadvantage at a tiny liberal arts school, this is not the case. Hamilton graduates are recruited by technology leaders such as IBM, Google, Apple and more. No doubt Hamilton's emphasis on speech and writing contributes in part to our particular success. I personally know Hamilton grads at Facebook, as well as other grads attempting to navigate the world of online business.

Clearly, Hamilton fulfills both sides to its "wired" title. However, there is always room for improvement. I believe our potential for growth lies in the fine details. Technology in academic and other buildings can continue to be tightened. We can fix the glitches and continue to integrate new technologies where they make sense. For instance, we can incorporate new technologies like artificial intelligence into different projects and endeavors, and possibly replace the old clunkers of televisions in Hamilton dorms.

All in all, we technological future as a refined version of what it is now: a network of advanced technology working in the background to boost our educational and recreational experiences.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Jans arrive at Hamilton: Freshmen finally feel confident that they're not the most confused students anymore, but quickly realize most Jans spent the fall semester navigating Europe while learning about culture, art and themselves.	New Year's Resolutions: Commons pizza for every meal, but eat healthy; party every weekend, but drink less; the Glen is so serene after it snows, but stop smoking.	How was your break? "Good," answers student who provided children with clean drinking water in Senegal and vacationed in Bermuda.
Baseball recruitment email: Batter up! The ladies of TUTD will see you at third base, ready to bunt.	Trivia Night email with subject "Too Bad": Terrified seniors everywhere double-check to make sure it was not sent from a future employer.	How was your break? "Great," answers student who watched Degrassi reruns and incessantly and unsuccessfully prank called his uncle.
DJ Interest Meeting: While Kimmy Gibbler is a solid friend in times of need, we finally have an outlet to discuss DJ Tanner and all her glory.	Social Space Lottery: Where reserving Bundy Dining Hall for your Sadie Hawkins Valentine's Day Beer Olympics feels almost as good as winning 10 million dollars.	Continental Mag Instagram Competition: What will win, your screenshot of the weather app at -15 degrees or a pic of the snowy Chapel with Al Ham in the foreground?

by Carrie Solomon '16 and Jessye McGarry '16

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

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College officials launch access and affordability programs at White House summit

By Patrick English '15
OPINION EDITOR

Last week, President Joan Hinde Stewart attended a summit at the White House focusing on low-income students' access to higher education. Over 100 college officials and business insiders attended the summit, hosted by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

As President Stewart explained, the meeting, originally intended for December, was pushed back after Nelson Mandela passed away so that the Obamas could attend the memorial service. The event opened with a dinner the night before, followed by an all-day summit with addresses from the President and the First Lady. The secretaries of labor and education were also in attendance, which was "indicative that this is something President Obama takes very seriously," said Stewart.

At the summit, President Obama explained two goals for the program: To significantly increase the number of Americans going to college by 2020, and to reclaim the United States' previous first-place ranking in college attainment by 2020. Collegiate and government officials would work together over the course of several meetings to achieve these goals.

The institutions are exploring many different paths due to the variety of different institutions. As President Stewart explained, "State universities, research colleges, Ivy League schools, technical institutes, community colleges, and liberal arts colleges attended the summit. The president is not prescribing any list of answers. No one program is right for all these different kinds of institutions, and that's one of the wonderful things about American higher education, the variety of institutions. There's something for everyone."

As part of the summit, Hamilton added its name to a list of Over 100 New Commitments to Expand College Opportunity. The College Opportunity Commitments Report provides the names of the colleges, along with a brief summary of their attempts to help low-income students. Hamilton's already established efforts, such as its two Posse programs and meeting 100 percent of students' demonstrated need, set the College apart from other schools in terms of financial aid.

As a stipulation of its signature, Hamilton will raise $1.5 million to endow a "First-Year Forward" pilot program to help new students, with potential who demonstrate financial need, to obtain meaningful and exploratory career-related programs. Hamilton will also work to expand its Student Emergency Aid Society (SEAS), which supports emergency or exceptional needs for students who have significant financial barriers.

In a speech given at Syracuse University in August, President Obama spoke broadly on ideas to give low-income students more access to higher education. His ideas included a new college rating system provided by the U.S. government that would focus on affordability and graduation rates. Five months later, the White House has made some progress on this plan, but it still seems to be neither specific nor uniform. No two pledges in the report are alike, meaning that most colleges are continuing business as usual without significant checks or regulations from the government. However, President Stewart stressed that commitment and passion were the overwhelming similarities of the summit.

WHITEHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG

It will be interesting to see how this program progresses over the remaining three years of Obama's presidency. If he makes good on his promise to dramatically decrease tuition, Hamilton will certainly feel the affects. Despite its need-blind status, Hamilton still has one of the highest tuition rates in the country. Along with other benefits, Hamilton's tuition pays the salary of our knowledgeable professors and helps with the upkeep of buildings and facilities. Major tuition decreases could result in many changes for the college, but at the current pace of this legislation Hamilton should not have to worry about this problem anytime soon.

Gun education will lead to safer schools

By Cesar Renero '17
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Gun control is a contentious topic because it raises constitutional, legal and safety issues. Clearly, Americans love their guns. The U.S. has nine weapons for every 10 citizens, more than double the runner-up (Switzerland), three times more than Canada and six times as many as Mexico. Consequently, it suffers the highest death toll amongst developed countries, most of it coming from gun-related violence.

A recent poll conducted by Professor Wu and Hamilton students demonstrated that high school students across the US feel that school shootings are a real concern. Nearly 60 percent were concerned about school shootings, yet over 90 percent feel safe in school. However, the students' reliability was tested, as 21 percent said they heard about a school shooting in Scarsdale, NY, which never happened.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the study though is that students roughly grouped themselves into two camps with different opinions about guns: Democrats and Republicans. Little over 30,000 people died due to gun-related violence in the US in 2011, yet 17 percent of self-identified Democrat students thought it was over 50,000 (less than 5 percent of Republicans thought that was the figure). 39 percent of self-identified Republican students thought the figure was less than 10,000, compared to 24 percent of Democrats.

These figures are telling because it seems that students on average seem to think that there is less gun violence and fewer gun-related deaths than the actual figures denote. Is the media in the United States biased in favor of gun rights? Are American students being misinformed, and is this affecting their perception of safety?

Despite their misconception about the true number of annual gun deaths, students overwhelmingly agree that there should be tougher background checks for gun purchases (85 percent). However, they are equally divided when asked about the effectiveness of tougher gun laws; 52 percent disagreed they would decrease gun violence, 48 percent agreed. Finally, students seemed to be informed about recent school massacres, with 92 percent being familiar with Newtown and 88 percent being familiar with Columbine.

What we can gather from this evidence is that students, while being informed of high-profile school shootings, are misinformed about the impact of gun violence, and although they support more stringent background checks, are indecisive as to whether it will have an effect on gun-related deaths. It seems that U.S. students may be tackling an issue that they do not fully understand, and perhaps they would benefit from school-instituted gun education.

"With informed citizens, we can take a step forward in carving a safer country."

This is not so far-fetched. After all, the U.S. public school system does a stellar job informing students of safe sex and the dangers of smoking. The U.S. has an aggressive, comprehensive and wide-reaching educational policy on both, and as a result has halved the number of teen pregnancies and the number of student smokers in the past 20 years. This is not to say that owning a gun is inherently wrong, for clearly smoking a cigarette or having sex is not intrinsically wrong either, but if people are more aware of their actions they can take more responsible choices, and prevent behaviour that negatively affects society.

The United States media is also a pervasive and important player in the gun debate. Most TV shows do not portray smoking a cigarette or having unprotected intercourse in a negative light, but because of the state-enforced education, those actions are nevertheless dissuaded. However, television channels like Fox News who take a pro-gun stance have shown to be impactful in Americans' conception of gun violence. After a school shooting, there is often a significant increase in the support for stricter gun laws, but this support is short-lived and returns to normal levels quickly afterwards. Furthermore, while in 1990 almost 80 percent of Americans supported stricter regulations, in 2010 only 43 percent wanted more control. In the most recent debate, sparked by the Newton massacre, the NRA viciously defended gun rights, refusing to relent in any way to stricter background checks. This non-profit organization, which now boasts a 230 million dollar annual budget, is acting more like a lobby group for gun manufacturers and gun activists than a registered charity. Its most vocal leader, Wayne LaPierre, is more akin to a politician than a philanthropist.

What is the solution? More education. To have an honest debate about gun control, our citizens need to be better informed. In high schools and colleges there should be gun education, just like we have sex ed. With informed citizens, we can take a step forward in carving a safer country.

The Hours You Can Never Remember

Cut these out; no matter how long you've been here you always forget them when you need them

Commons

Breakfast Mon–Sun	7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Lunch Mon–Fri	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Snack Mon–Fri	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Dinner Mon–Sun	5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Brunch Sat–Sun	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

McEwen (all hours are Mon–Fri)

Breakfast	7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Lunch	11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Dinner	4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.*

*No dinner served on Friday

Diner

Mon–Fri	9 a.m. – midnight
Sat/Sun	3 p.m. – midnight
Diner B (Th–Sat)	midnight – 4 a.m.

The Little Pub (lunch)

Mon–Fri	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Opus 1 & Opus 2

Mon–Wed	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.
Th/Fri	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sunday	7:30 – 11:30 p.m.

Euphoria Smoothies

Mon–Fri	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday	12 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Graveyard

24/7... Enter at your own risk!

Library

Mon–Th	8 a.m. – 2 a.m.
Friday	8 a.m. – midnight
Saturday	10 a.m. – midnight
Sunday	10 a.m. – 2 a.m.

Music Library

Mon – Th	9:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Friday	9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	noon – 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	noon – 11 p.m.

Writing Center

Mon–Th	10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	noon – 10 p.m.
Computer Lab Hours:	
Mon–Th	8:30 a.m. – 12 a.m.
Fri	8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday	11 a.m. – midnight

Q Lit Center

Mon–Th	12 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Sun–Th	7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday	1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday	4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Bookstore

Mon–Fri	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Registrar

Mon–Fri	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Dean of Students Office

Mon–Fri	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Residential Life

Mon–Fri	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Career Center

Mon–Fri	9 a.m. – noon; 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Mon–Wed	7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Mail Center (all hours are Mon–Fri)

Stamps	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Packages	10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Health Center

Mon/Tu/Th/Fri	8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m; 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 12 p.m; 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Counseling Center

Mon–Fri	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fitness Center

Mon–Fri	6 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Sat–Sun	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Alumni Gym

Mon–Fri	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Sat–Sun	10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Climbing Wall

Mon–Th	4 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday	4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Sat–Sun	2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Squash Courts

Mon–Fri	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Sat–Sun	10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Ice Rink (open skate Jan–Feb)

Sun–Fri	12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

DISCLAIMER: Hours may change throughout the year as places finalize schedules. Keep an eye out for updated hours of places of interest.

Ellie Wertimer: 'Things change, and you've got to let them change'

By Kate Moore '12
Managing Editor Emeritus

This article originally appeared in the Sept. 15, 2011 issue of The Spectator. *We are publishing it again to honor the memory of Ellie Wertimer, who passed away on January 18, 2014.*

Ellie Wertimer describes her 57-year marriage to Professor of Economics Sidney Wertimer as a relationship in which there were "two chiefs and no Indians." Each a Hamilton legend in his or her own right, the Wertimers have long been admired for their dedication not only to the College, but to their beliefs and convictions. It was Sidney's ideals that brought them to Hamilton in the first place, and it is Ellie who now reflects on the state of the College almost 60 years later.

After graduating from Wharton in 1942, Sidney joined the Navy and saw a great deal of combat as a lieutenant in World War II. Following his release, Ellie said, "He thought he'd like to get involved in teaching and bringing up young people, so we wouldn't have to go through another war like that one."

After receiving his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, Sidney knew he wanted to teach at a small liberal arts school where teaching was valued above publishing, a desire that led him to Hamilton in 1952. Sidney labored as a much-lauded, and much-adored, professor in the economics department for several decades, until he retired in 1991. He passed away in the winter of 2005, but his influence remains strong on campus, from the Wertimer House dormitory to the coveted Sidney Wertimer teaching award.

At the time of her family's arrival, Ellie Wertimer recalls that Hamilton had a good reputation, although it did not yet have a national appeal. "One of the directors of admission called [the students] the 'Cherry Valley nuggets.' They were the valedictorians and salutatorians of the high schools right around here," said Wertimer.

Initially residing in the Root Farmhouse, Wertimer appreciated the hospitable atmosphere and noted the lack of departmental social divisions and professional hierarchy. She recalls that her husband enjoyed learning along with his students, especially when he was asked to teach accounting with no prior knowledge of the subject. Wertimer was equally involved in student life, inviting students to her house for dinner, providing costumes for plays, refreshments for functions and even serving as a nurse or chaperon when necessary.

Over the years, Wertimer has formed strong bonds with multiple students. She considers Mary McLean Evans '82 her "adopted" daughter, and has fond memory of Bob Moses '56 as one of her children's favorite babysitters. Though she sings Hamilton's praises as a great place to bring up her four kids, Wertimer was by no means the traditional housewife of the 1950s and '60s. After attending Smith College as an undergraduate and receiving her law degree from the University of Buffalo, Wertimer worked as a law clerk for a New York State judge. Once her children were grown, she served as an attorney for the Oneida County Department of Social Services and later as executive director of Family Services of Greater Utica. Finally, Wertimer was elected Kirkland town justice, a position she held for 20 years.

While Sidney Wertimer advanced through the positions of professor, associate dean, provost and college marshall, Hamilton College advanced along with him. One change to the College's campus that Ellie Wertimer has always felt strongly about is the merger between Hamilton, an all-male school, and Kirkland College, an all-female school, in 1978.

At that time, many of the Ivy League schools had become co-ed, and Hamilton was prepared to keep up with its peers.

In Wertimer's opinion, "Hamilton is better with Kirkland." Though she describes the merger as incredibly bitter, particularly in the case of tenured Kirkland faculty who were denied that status upon merging with Hamilton, Wertimer has been excited to see what she calls "the return of the Kirkland women." Many Kirkland graduates did not feel positively toward the merger or their time at Hamilton, but at the same time, many have gone on to send their children here. Wertimer praises recent Hamilton administrations for attempting to recruit Kirkland women to attend College events, setting up Kirkland alumni meetings, and encouraging more dialogue about the merger and any enduring bitterness.

The one aspect of the College's recent history that leaves a bitter taste in Wertimer's mouth is what she perceives to be the dominance of Greek life on campus. Her husband was an avid proponent of "total opportunity," meaning that any student who wanted to be in a fraternity could join. This provision was intended to rectify the common exclusion of campus minorities, including students with Jewish, Italian and African-American identities.

"It was a sad time," said Wertimer. What made it worse, she said, is that while these students were able to get into fraternities thanks to "total opportunity," they were still ignored, ridiculed or harassed by their brothers. The fraternities finally had their on-campus houses taken away in 1995; the former DKE house has since been converted into the Wertimer House dormitory. Fifteen years later, Hamilton's Greek life still alarms Wertimer.

"This is not the time; the culture is so different!" said

HAMILTON.EDU

Wertimer. "And I certainly never thought there would be sororities at Hamilton College." Though Wertimer has several nieces and nephews who belong to Greek societies, and has heard their reasons why, she maintains that they have no place at Hamilton, and claims that many faculty members have felt the same for decades.

Wertimer is not shy about sharing her opinions. At the same time, she hesitates to hold current students to the standards of those with whom she played tennis or ate dinner some 50 years ago. She praises a speech in which Jay Williams reminisced fondly of his own years as a Hamilton student, but also warned current students against expecting future classes to enjoy the same traditions and uphold the same values as they have.

"Things change," said Wertimer. "And you've got to let them change."

Ways to beat the winter blues

by Hristina Mangelova '16 and Rachel Beamish '16
Features Editors

1. Paper snowflakes

Throw back to your kindergarten days and bring seasonal cheer to your dorm room by making some paper snowflakes. You can have fun and show off your creativity by coming up with all sorts of patterns and designs. After all, no two snowflakes are alike.

2. Ice Skating

Put those ice skates to good use at Sage Rink! Some pirouettes or a speed lap will get your mind off schoolwork and burn off that cookie you had at lunch. What's even better: If you don't have skates you can rent a pair from the rink.

IMAGES.AMAZON.COM

3. Warm Clothes

There is nothing better than putting on your freshly dried and warm clothes when the temperature outside is in the negatives. It will keep you warm and fuzzy!

4. Ballroom Dancing

Have you ever thought of trying out Ballroom Club? If not, this is the perfect time to do so! Staying active will raise your endorphins and keep your mood positive.

AGOURAHILLSDANCE.COM

Plus, you never know when waltzing can come in handy…

5. Shopping

Did you know that Syracuse's Destiny USA is the sixth biggest shopping center in the country? A perfect one-day road trip destination for you and your friends! Hop in your car, put on some fun music and check it out. You can go to the movies, find the perfect Valentine's Day present and even ride a carousel.

6. Snowman Building

When was the last time you made a snowman? There is plenty of snow and space in front of Dunham for you and your friends to put your building skills to the test. Plus, it could be a pretty fun first date! Afterwards, treat yourself to some hot cocoa or tea to warm up after your chilly snow day.

7. Hot shower

Let's be honest: There is nothing better than a long, hot shower after a cold day. If accompanied by some delicious aromas, you and your room will smell like flowers for days, and who doesn't like that?

TAGLOL.COM

8. Glen Walk

The Glen is one of the most popular places for Hamilton students to unwind. Even though there is plenty of snow now, this shouldn't stop you from doing your usual Glen hike. Just take a thermos with hot tea to keep you warm! Who knows, you may find out that you even prefer the Glen at wintertime.

9. Snuggling

The tundra weather is yet another reason to find a snuggle buddy!

CUTEPICTURESITE.COM

Whether (s)he is living and breathing, or is your favorite stuffed animal, it hardly matters—as long as you are curled up in bed and relaxed!

10. Winter Fashion

Winter and the cold can challenge your usual fashion style but can also inspire awesome new combinations. Hats and scarves can spice up your outfit more than you'd think!

11. Sleep Schedule

When it's this cold outside, it may start to seem like bears have the right idea with the whole hibernation thing; it's tempting to just crawl under the blankets and sleep. But while rest is definitely important for keeping your energy up, too much of it can actually make you feel more tired. Set a sleep schedule for yourself and stick to it, and you'll find yourself ready to brave the cold and take on the day.

12. FebFest

One of Hamilton's best traditions is the annual FebFest, a week of winter-themed activities that everyone on campus can take part in. Warm yourself up with different kinds of chili at the Chili Cook-off, take in a figure skating show at Sage Rink and cheer on your friends at the Mr. Hamilton pageant. It's the perfect way to celebrate winter!

HAMILTON.EDU

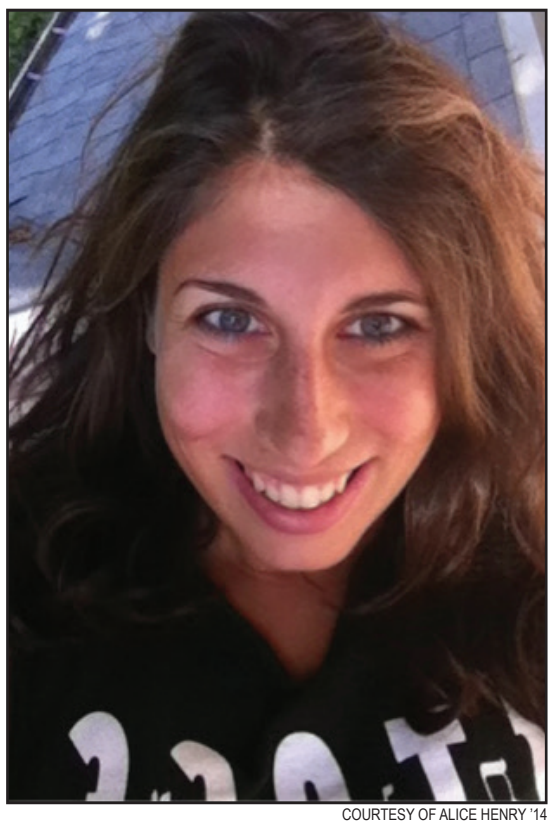
Bachelor and Bachelorette

Alex Hollister '17

COURTESY OF ALEX HOLLISTERY '17

Hometown: *Johnstown, NY.*
Home on Campus: *Wertimer.*
Major: *Mathematics/ Economics.*
Turn On? *Girls who like to eat at McEwen.*
Turn Off? *Hotmail email accounts.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Dunham—Dirty D.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights on!*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Rebecca Black and Enrique Iglesias because I love Fridays and I can be your hero, baby.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *Why pay more when you can Payless?*
What TV genre best describes you? *Horror.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Are you familiar with Platform 9 ¾? I know something with the same measurement."*
What's your type? *Always nice and loving.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *The season finale of Breaking Bad, my dinosaur nightlight and Netflix.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Bundy Dining Hall.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Commons during dinner.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *PBX.*
What's your spirit animal and why? *A koala bear because I am cuddly and cute!*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Swimming in the KJ fountain naked.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Emma Watson.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Computer Science.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Lindsay Buff.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Yumi Pak.*
What would your perfect date be? *Thai food and a scary movie.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A signed autograph from the main actress of The Human Centipede.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Leaving dirty dishes on the dining hall tables.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Anything from the Diner—everyone wants to eat me but feels guilty afterwards.*

Alice Henry '14


COURTESY OF ALICE HENRY '14

Hometown: *Chicago, IL.*
Home on Campus: *Trillbank 36.*
Major: *Environmental studies with a focus in biology.*
Turn On? *Flannels and broad shoulders.*
Turn Off? *Bathrobes.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Anderson apartments, because they can be nice or horrible, but mostly just haphazard.*
Lights on or lights off? *Clap on, clap off.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Laura Marling and The Temptations, because of all the soul.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *That was easy.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Telenovellas.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *If by best you mean terrible: "Do you know how much a polar bear weighs? Enough to break the ice. Hi, I'm (insert name here)."*
What's your type? *Lumberjack, but more facial hair.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Maple syrup, boots and the Magic School bus.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The Annex.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *The Glen.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Heat. But actually.*
What's your spirit animal and why? *A lemur, because those eyes are just so alluring.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Take all the almond milk from the dining halls.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Model EU takes on Amsterdam.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Walking outside in this tundra.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Whoever serenades me with a ukulele.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *The environmental studies faculty won my heart long ago.*
What would your perfect date be? *Science.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A thing to measure vegetation density.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Being the worst during jitney late night service.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *McEwen stir-fry, because it made life 10 times better.*

Save the date for Doug Varone & Co.

by Xenia Tiajoloff '16
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

Dance rightfully transcends the human need for lingual communication and translates to an audience its stories, abstractions, and the most sublime characteristics of humanity through the inspired minds of artists. Doug Varone, of the Doug Varone Dance Company, is one such artist who has in his 27 year history choreographed a collection of pieces that fall throughout the creative spectrum from heavy, dark, conflict-laden movements to freer, more optimistic pieces.

Every choreographer has a signature he unconsciously laces into the piece, whether it be his feel for the music's counts, or the movement taught to his dancers. Varone's dances are captivating in their constant interaction and experimentation with space and forms. They feature strong silhouettes in each individual step, common-place intricate weaving between the dancers, and the intentional desire to have the dancers look as though they, in Varone's own words, "spilled across the stage" in unforeseeable ways. Similarly, Varone advocates using the arms of the dancers as many classical dancers wish to use them- not bordering sources as free (if on loose) of momentum, allowed to tuck close to the body to help the dancers reach new heights or spin with more ease. The technique in the dancers' movements is hard to miss as they swiftly move from position to position in a manner that makes it seem as though the physical expression is an unpredictable and in-the moment reaction to the immediate scene.

All this is combined with inspired music that feels as unpredictable as the accompanying dancing.

Most admirably, Varone understands that entirely communicating his original idea is no theatrical catastrophe. Instead, he builds upon the choreography he has already set into the muscles of his dancers and often incorporates the solos, certain combinations, and folds them into a new piece: an attempt to provide his best choreography a home in more suitable storyline. The result is a new movement that feels inspired, fresh, and slightly more epic.

If seeing the next accomplishment in a culminating repertoire of a man who has fearlessly spent years perfecting his modern-contempo- rary style of story- telling is an attractive offer, the company is set to perform on Hamilton College Campus in the month of January. *Wellin Hall, January 25. Tickets: $20*

BLOGS.COURANT.COM

January-
24: A Capella concert (McEwen, 6:30p)
25: Doug Varone Dance Company (see article above!)

March-
7-8: Spring Dance Concert
9: Hamilton College Orchestra
11: Silent Film, "It," with orchestra

February 2014

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thu	Saturday
			1
2	3	4 Celebrate Chinese New Year!	5	6	7 Choir musical (Wellin, 7:30p)	8
9	10	11	12 SNL's Kate McKinnon (Wellin, 8p)	13 Rusted Root (Events Barn, 8p)	14 'Vagina Monologues' (Events Barn 6p)	15 Ezra Pound & the Troubadours (Burke, 1p)
16	17	18 Black History Month Jazz (Events Barn, 7:30p)	19	20 Heartbeat Concert (Events Barn, 8p)	21 Noam Pikelny & Friends (7:30p)	22
23	24 EveryBODY has a Voice Speakout (sunporch, 7p)	25	26 To Africa & Back (Events Barn, 5:30p)	27	28 Symphoria (Wellin, 7:30p)	

Didn't get to the movies over break?

These are the ones to see before the Oscars

by Brian Burns '17
Arts and Entertainment writer

By the end of December, the Oscar race becomes an all-out sprint, as critically acclaimed films struggle to squeeze in through the window of eligibility (the deadline for the next year's ceremony is the end of the current year). As a result, around this time of year awards-caliber films are bumping elbows with films like, well, *Grudge Match over the years*. The eclectic and overcrowded holiday season has bulldozed the box office prospects of many a hopeful blockbuster. However, some films deserve to be rescued from the carnage.

When I wasn't inseparable from my couch this break, I was in a movie theater where the so-called "Polar Vortex" couldn't disturb me. The following are my recommendations for films that were buried under the winter glut. In addition, I recommend you see *Frozen* again (or for the first time, if you haven't seen it already).

COLLIDER.COM

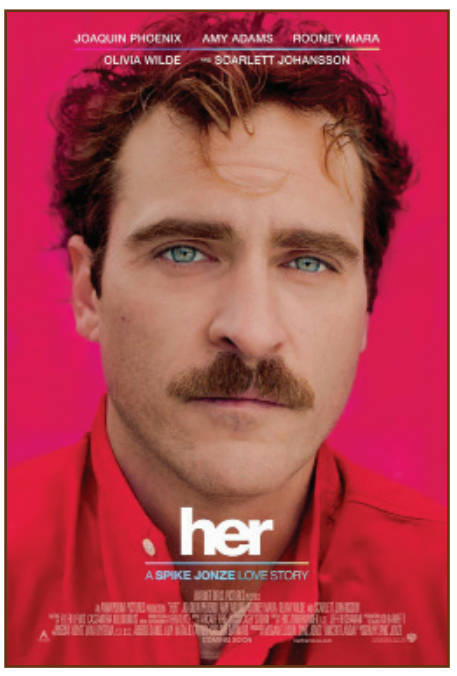
Young folk singer Llewyn Davis (Oscar Isaac) auditions for a gig in Chicago.

EONLINE.COM

Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) persuades P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) to bring *Mary Poppins* to cinema.

Saving Mr. Banks from director John Lee Hancock and Walt Disney Pictures was all but forgotten when the Oscar nominations were announced (it garnered a lone nomination for best score), but undeservedly so. *Banks*, which relates the making of the film *Mary Poppins* through the eyes of the book's author, P.L. Travers, is disarmingly charming. The script by Kelly Marcel details Travers' childhood in the Australian outback alongside her clashes with Walt Disney's production of Mary Poppins, with moments that are uncharacteristically dark for a Disney movie (including a scene in which a popular *Poppins* song is juxtaposed with Travers' father's alcoholic antics carries Emma Thompson's lead performance is characteristically skillful – both reserved and heartfelt. Tom Hanks as Walt Disney is not given the room to provide the same layered portrait of the man behind the mouse, but he manages to find the right balance of fuzziness and outright manipulation that defined Disney. Though fiercely and sometimes frustratingly traditional (especially in its pursuit of a happy ending), *Banks* is a well-constructed delight.

If *Saving Mr. Banks* is a fine example of a major studio product, Her is the opposite — the work of an auteur whose fingerprints are evident. The film is the personal statement of writer/director Spike Jonze, whose presence in it is quite unmistakable. *Her* tells the story of a divorcee (Joaquin Phoenix) falling in love with a computer operating system voiced by Scarlett Johansson. Perhaps this plot would be fodder for comedy if the film itself were not so truthful. It may be set in the near future (which, as depicted by Jonze, is beautiful and inviting with cherry red hues and a 50s clothing aesthetic), but the emotions of *Her* are authentic ones. This is due to both the versatility of Scarlett Johansson's vocal performance as Samantha and Joaquin Phoenix's fragility as Theodore. The audience bears witness to moments so intimate that it can feel almost uncomfortable, for the leads of *Her* command more emotional investment than filmic relationships between two flesh-and-blood humans. *Her* examines love through an entirely new and evocative lens, but that does not prevent it from being the most touching love story of the year.



CINESNATCH.BLOGSPOT.COM

Inside Llewyn Davis is a film about unfulfilled dreams, and how their pursuit can lead to walking in circles. It is a meandering movie and a potentially frustrating one, and thus is perhaps one of the most piercing and perceptive stories in the Coen Brothers' filmography. The music as produced by T. Bone Burnett is captivating, with each stripped-down folk song offering new insight into the longing of Llewyn and his fellow folk singers (among them guileless Justin Timberlake and a pissed off but magnetic Carey Mulligan) to succeed. The exception is the gimmicky "Please Mr. Kennedy," a production that is meant to capture laughs, and achieves spectacularly. The film itself is grey, and bears more than a passing resemblance to real life. *Llewyn Davis* examines the struggles of an artist, a folk singer in 1960s New York. Thus, it could easily suffice as a mere a showcase for the talents of its lead, Oscar Isaac. However, Isaac's performance is just one of the film's merits, as it is not just in terms of cinematography. Llewyn faces a constant stream of missed opportunities and rejection by other characters who barely recognize the talent the audience sees immediately. Through all his strife, Llewyn soldiers on just as all artists must.

These three movies are a welcome break from the high-profile sequels and remakes that dominated this Christmas season. *Banks*, *Her* and *Llewyn* may not boast the box office numbers of their big-budget counterparts, but they offer their own rewards with richly-drawn characters and exploration of themes ranging from the nature of love to the labor of the creative process. Instead of settling for short-term pleasure, these films will occupy your mind after the popcorn bucket is emptied and the credits have rolled. They may just cause you to reflect on your own life, and for this they are more valuable than any visuals.

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Dear Class of 2015:

Do you want to serve on the Honor Court during the Spring 2014 Semester? The Court is missing one student member from your class. Student members investigate potential Honor Code violations and help assign sanctions if the accused is found responsible.

If you wish to serve, submit an application to kprentic@hamilton.edu by *Monday, January 27th*. Simply state why you want to serve and list your qualifications. The applications will be reviewed by all current members of the Court and the new member will be elected based on the Court's vote.

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Swim & Dive bond in Florida

*from **Swimming,** page 15*

She beat out all the competition by nine seconds.

Kelly ’15 overpowered all her opponents in both the 500 and 1,000 freestyle events. Hooper ’16 earned the top spot in the 100 freestyle by less than a second with a time of 55:19.

The men almost had a clean sweep of number-one finishes, winning 10 out of 11 events. Ryan Cassidy ’17 won the 1,000 freestyle and 200 breaststroke. John McBratney ’16 took the 200 and 500 freestyle, in addition to anchoring the 200 free relay.

Cassidy commented that “we opened the meet with the medley relay, that we won pretty handily and that really helped build momentum. Going into the 1000 I felt like I wanted to keep the energy up”.

Reid Swartz ’15 continued his successful season, coming out on top in the 200 yard individual medley and the 200 yard backstroke. He beat out his competition by at least three seconds in both events.

Levinson commented, “As for the team, we are preparing for the NESCACs...we have some very strong swimmers and we have nowhere but forward to go.”

The Continentals currently have a record of 2-5 this season. The swimmers are looking to add another win to their tally this Saturday, Jan. 25, in Schenectady, NY.

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Swimming knocks opponents out of the water

by Daphne Assimakopoulos '17
Sports Writer

For the last month, snow has fallen by the foot and temperatures have plummeted. However, not even the blistering cold could hold back the steadfast athletes on the men's and women's swim teams.

After a few days of break, both teams were back in the water training. On Jan. 4, both Hamilton teams defeated Wesleyan Univesity. The women beat the Cardinals 130 to 109, and the men took the victory 141.5 to 89.5.

The women claimed first place in seven events, with Maggie Rosenbaum '14 and Sarah Hooper '16 leading the charge. Hooper took the top spot in both the 50- and 100-meter freestyle. Rosenbaum won the 100 backstroke and 200 individual medley.

Molly Ferguson '14 and Sarah Dempsey '14 also brought home a pair of first-place finishes. Dempsey came out on top in the 200 butterfly, and Ferguson claimed the 3 meter diving.

The 400 yard freestyle relay comprised on Elizabeth Barry '17, Hannah Mooney '17, McKenna Kelly '15 and Allie Reeder '14, who beat out the Wesleyan women by a margin of two seconds and a time of 3:38:72.

The Hamilton men dominated as well, taking first place finishes in nine events. Three Continentals claimed two first place finishes each. John McBratney '16 won the 200 and 500 free, and Reid Swartz won the 200 individual medley and 200 backstroke. Remi Levinson '17 won both diving events.

The 400 free relay team comprised of Conor Collins '14, Andrew McWhirter '15, Fumi Asaga '14 and McBratney '16, who crushed the Cardinals with a time of 3:20:17, nine seconds faster than their Wesleyan opponents.

A few days after their valiant efforts against Wesleyan, the Continentals traveled to Islamorada, Florida for the Founders Invitational swim meet.

"Our Florida training trip was a challenging week," said Ben Fields '15, "but we had a blast as a team. It was an excellent opportunity for us to get closer, in and out of the pool. Beating Wesleyan was the boost we needed heading into Florida."

> **"Beating Wesleyan was the boost we needed heading into Florida."**
> *—Ben Fields '15*

Under a sunny sky, Hamilton swam alongside Colorado College and Colby-Sawyer College in a non-scoring relay meet. Hamilton came out on top in both diving competitions and five out of eight events.

Molly Ferguson '14 and Remi Levinson '17 won the diving events, with 177.65 points and 162.5 points respectively.

Hamilton also finished first in the crescendo freestyle relay, in which the first competitor swims 50 meters, the second swims 100, the the third, 150, and the final, 200. The relay team was powered by Genevieve Caffrey '17, Ben Fields '15, McKenna Kelly '15 and Scott Becker '17.

After a week of warmth and beautiful Florida weather, the Continentals returned to the Hill a much more tight-knit team. As Levinson notes, the success of the diving team has been accompanied by improved team chemistry. "The diving team is a group of great people," said Levinson. "I've gotten very close to the team and have grown tremendously as a diver. Our coach, Jim Ray, has been at Hamilton for 10 years, and has helped each of us grow remarkably this season."

On Jan. 18, both the men and women dominated the Rochester Institute of Technology in a convincing victory at the Bristol Pool, for their second dual meet win in a row. The women won 132 to 11, and the men won 135 to 97.

Rosenbaum '14 and Kelly '15 won another two individual events each at this meet. Rosenbaum excelled once again in her specialty event, the 200 backstroke.

*see **Swimming & Diving,** page 14*

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Sarah Hooper '16 pulls ahead in the 100 meter free.

Graber '16 leads team in points

*from **Women's Basketball,** page 16*

addressed their overreliance on Graber, and her teammates asserted themselves as scoring threats.

In their game against RIT, the team stretched their winning streak to three with an impressive defensive display that limited the Tigers to 30.3 percent shooting. Behind 29 points from Graber and impressive shooting from the rest of the team, the Continentals led 50-26 at the half and never looked back, cruising to a 77-52 victory.

The next three away games to Buffalo State, third-ranked Amherst and Trinity, brought the Continentals back to earth and exposed their offensive limitations. Nevertheless, senior Dani Feigin contributed 13 points and 4 assists against Trinity, lightening the load on Graber and initiating a more balanced distribution of scoring in future games.

At home in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House on Jan. 17, the Continentals were determined to sustain this change in offensive strategy against a struggling Colby team. The Continentals' defense, impressive all season, suppressed the Mules' offense and enabled them to rattle off a 24-3 run in the second half that left their opponents with little hope of winning the game.

On the other side of the ball, the Continentals employed a balanced and pragmatic offense, suffering from only nine turnovers and bolstered by three scorers in double-digits. Feigin finished with a career-high 21 points and sophomores Carly Gruenberg and Graber both chipped in 16. Explaining this improvement, Coach Michelle Collins said, "We emphasized the fundamentals to continue to enhance our plays and offensive output."

Encouraged by their first NESCAC victory and improved offensive strategy, the team pushed 18th-ranked Bowdoin to the brink. With an impressive 28 points and 12 rebounds from Graber, the Conts were on their way to victory, but squandered their lead in the second half and faded in overtime, losing 65-71.

Coach Collins, despite the close defeat to Bowdoin, believed the more balanced scoring distribution could prove to be a pivotal development in their season, noting that "we had many different players step up in different roles."

The Continentals continue their season with away games against 15th-ranked Williams on the 25th, and SUNY IT on the 28th, where they hope to return to winning ways.

Men's hockey looks to improve in NESCAC

*from **Hockey,** page 16*

standings.

Hamilton is among the better even-strength teams in the conference, but their special teams units have struggled in power play situations. After a blistering start for the power play unit, the Continentals have slipped to seventh in the NESCAC, down to a 17.6 percent scoring rate. Moreover, Hamilton has compiled the most penalty minutes in the conference, stressing the penalty kill unit.

Defensemen Conor Lamberti '17 is one of the team leaders in ice time, and he highlighted the avoidable burden penalties have placed on the Conts. "As a team, we started taking too many penalties during our last few weekends,"said Lamberti. "We were unable to create much of a flow to our game when we were constantly killing penalties. Our coaches have emphasized playing smart and disciplined over the past few weeks."

It is no coincidence that Hamilton has seen a positive turn the past two games. The Continentals received just 14 total penalty minutes against Tufts and Connecticut College, slicing a huge chunk off their 16.8 penalty minutes per game average. With Hamilton avoiding long stretches in the penalty box, the Continentals outshot both squads, giving themselves golden opportunities to win.

They must sustain this focus on discipline, as Hamilton will close its season with an eight-game NESCAC stretch against schools they have already faced. That includes a road game against Wesleyan on Feb. 1 and a home skate against Connecticut College Feb. 16, the two teams in closest competition with Hamilton for the final NESCAC playoff spots.

For Lamberti and the Continentals, vengeance is a strong motivator, in addition to the playoff chase. "We're looking forward to each weekend and trying to get four points," Lamberti assured, "but I think as we play our second game against each NESCAC team, there is a motivation to try and beat the teams that we lost to earlier in the year. I think everyone will be a little more eager to get revenge on those teams."

Hamilton men's hockey is no longer a NESCAC minnow, but they are not a shark yet either. To truly elevate to contender status, the Continentals must string together a winning streak as the season winds down, and bring their best hockey on a nightly basis. With Hamilton taking a step forward with their recent form, as Haney concluded, "It has shown in our play...when we've played the kind of hockey that we are capable of, we have been a force."

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
January 23, 2014

Hart hits buzzer-beater to push Conts past Elmira

by Colin Ainsworth '17
Sports Contributor

Trading baskets, the game came down to the final possession. On a kickout to the corner, sophomore Jack Donnelly's three-pointer bounced off the back iron, but was rebounded by Matthew Hart '16, who threw up a miraculous fadeaway from a tight baseline angle to beat Elmira at the buzzer. Leaving the court, a jubilant Hart recapped the frenetic final play: "I grabbed the rebound, and I knew there was barely any time left, so I just turned around quickly and shot it. I have no idea how it went in, but, hey, we all get lucky sometimes!"

Tuesday's win was a tale of two halves as the Continentals faced the Soaring Eagles. Hamilton entered the second half up 48-29; however, they were caught off-guard by an energized Elmira team, which repeatedly battled back from double-digit deficits. Spurred by careless Continental turnovers, the Eagles narrowed the lead by shooting 56 percent from the field and nailing eight threes. Ending the second half on a 12-2 run, Elmira tied the game, and after a Continental turnover, were poised to steal the win. Fortunately, Hamilton survived a chaotic final possession in which the Eagles had multiple chances at victory. But the Continentals emerged unscathed, setting the scene for the dramatic finish.

The win moved Hamilton to 8-8 overall on the season. At .500 again, the team has upped its intensity. When asked about "upcoming statement games," Coach Stockwell said, "Every game in the NESCAC is a statement game." The crucial point of this season is now, as winter break ends and conference play ramps up.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17
Jack Donnelly scored eight points in 18 minutes of action.

The Continentals went 3-5 over the break with wins over Alfred State, SUNY Cobleskill and Colby. Unfortunately, three losses in conference extended their NESCAC record to 1-3. They now stand at ninth in the conference, having lost to the first, second and fourth teams in Amherst, Bowdoin and Trinity respectively.

Though the record has disappointed, a handful of players have experienced breakout seasons. When asked about stand-out performances, Coach Stockwell commended several players, highlighting the high-scoring backcourt of Greg Newton '14 and Hart '16, who average 11.4 and 20.8 points per game respectively. On the other side of the ball, Stockwell lauded the collective defensive presence of Matt Dean '14, Pete Kazickas '15 and Bradley Gifford '15, as they have compensated for their lack of height with great effort and discipline. Furthermore, 6'7" Ajani Santos '16 has infused the lineup with much-needed size, taking advantage of an expanded role to distinguish himself as a vital defender and rebounder off the bench.

With six NESCAC games remaining, the Continentals understand the urgency of stingy defense. For much of the season, Hamilton has been a middle-of-the-pack conference defense in terms of points allowed and opponent field goal percentage. Coach Stockwell stressed this, saying, "We have spent more time than usual on our defensive techniques, concepts and rotations as well as our rebounding. Our statistics in these areas have been lower than what we would like to see. The guys have been working hard in these areas and we hope there will be some improvement in the coming weeks."

The Continentals, tied with Colby College for the final NESCAC playoff spot, face a critical upcoming stretch. After a pair of road games against ninth-ranked Williams and SUNY Institute of Technology, Hamilton will play a season-defining three-game homestand against Middlebury, Tufts and Bates. The latter two contests hold particular importance, pitting Hamilton against teams they must beat to reach the postseason.

M. Hockey Aims for Playoff Push

by Sterling Xie '16
Sports Editor

Over the past three years, Hamilton sports teams have worked hard at developing a foothold in the Northeastern Small College Athletic Conference. The results have not always been ideal, but across sports, teams are starting to establish more consistency, and playoffs are becoming the expectation rather than the hope.

The men's hockey team, which has finished eighth in the conference the past two years, embodies a Hamilton team trying to get over the hump. It's been an uneven ride for the squad, as the team has yet to put together a winning streak, and is just 2-6 on the road.

The Continentals have fought their way up to seventh with an overall record of 4-8-1 and 3-6-1 in the NESCAC. Hamilton showed solid resolve over a six-game road stretch—after dropping the first four, the Continentals defeated Tufts 3-2, then earned a half game in the standings with a 3-4 overtime loss to Connecticut College.

Team captain Evan Haney '14 believes the execution has improved over the recent stretch, even if the results have been underwhelming. "Coming into the New Year, our coaching staff outlined several points of emphasis for our team to improve upon," Haney explained. "Despite the outcomes of those games over break, we did make significant strides in some of those areas. However, we have struggled to consistently do the little things that are needed to win games," he added. "We have not played a team that is better than us this year. At this point, our task is simple. We need to do the things that have proven to give us success on a consistent basis."

In a sport like hockey, where a team might only generate a handful of scoring opportunities, those "little things" manifest themselves in the

see ***Hockey,*** *page 15*

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY
Captain Evan Haney battles for the puck.

W. Basketball wins first NESCAC contest

by Yoshi Hill '16
Sports Editor

For much of the season, Samantha Graber '16 has carried the women's basketball team with her prolific scoring and rebounding. Honored as the NESCAC's "Player of the Week" on Jan. 6, she is averaging a team-leading 18.3 points, and her 7.8 rebounds are second on the team. With a vast arsenal of scoring moves, she has assumed much of the Continentals' scoring load, enhancing the offense from last year. Coach Michelle Collins highlighted this change, stating, "Our offense has improved from the low 50s last season to 60 points this year." Only one team this season has managed to counter Graber's scoring prowess and limited her to single digits. This dependence has, at times, proven to be the team's downfall as teams focus their defensive effort on Graber and force her to work much harder for her points.

While much of the student body rests at home or travels, the women's basketball returned almost immediately after New Year's and restarted their season with a home game against the Rochester Institute of Technology on Jan. 4. During six winter break games, the Continentals

see ***Basketball,*** *page 15*

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY
Samantha Graber '16 drives to the basket against Amherst.